
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION BUREAU

**BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES
WATERWAYS GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM**

Contact: Jordan Byelich, Boating Unit, Planning Section, Parks and Recreation
Bureau, MDNR, P.O. Box 30257, Lansing, MI 48909, Phone: 517-241-1533

Program Description

Grants-in-aid are provided to local units of government (city, village, township, county) for the construction of recreational boating facilities, including development and/or expansion of launching ramp projects.

Legislative History

This program was created through enactment of State of Michigan Public Act 320 of 1947, which created the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC).

Grant Guidelines

Financial assistance ranges from 50 to 75% of the total cost of development of recreational boating facilities. Eligible costs include, engineering and contingency costs as well as costs normally associated with construction of these facilities. In return, the local unit must provide the land free-of-charge and agree to operate and maintain the completed facility. Applications for funding are accepted at all times but must be submitted by April of the application year, in order to be considered for funding.

Guidelines for submitting an application are available from Parks and Recreation Bureau (PRB), Boating Unit. Upon receipt of an application, a staff member will be designated to work with the community, review the site, and discuss the project to determine the proper procedure to be followed. If staff review recommends that we proceed with the project, the local unit will be responsible for evaluation of any environmental and/or historical concerns involving the site. If the assessment is found to be positive with respect to the proposed scope of the project, a preliminary engineering study is usually desirable to determine the design, cost and feasibility of constructing the proposed facilities. Engineering studies are conducted by the local unit of government with matching grant monies, 50% of the study cost, available from PRB. State and Federal permits are obtained during the study process.

When the scope of the project is agreed upon by the local unit and PRB, and permits have been received, a determination is made by the local unit of its ability to participate in the project and a request is submitted to PRB. Project proposals are taken to the MSWC in June of each year. Applicants must show good performance on past DNR grants. After MSWC and DNR Director approval, specific appropriations for these projects are then requested of the Legislature. Grant monies are available until after October 1 of the year following MSWC approval, assuming legislative approval. All projects funded through the MSWC must comply with the most recent provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any restrooms provided must be available for public use.

Funding Source

The restricted Waterways Fund, consists of revenues derived from 1.6% of state gasoline taxes and 17.5% of watercraft registration fees. The level of funding available varies from year to year. Federal Dingell-Johnson funds, from the Sport Fish Restoration Act, may be used to augment project funding.